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School Committee Minutes 06/10/2008

Approved by School Committee June 24, 2008

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008
7:30 PM**

Present:

School Committee Members: Joe Curro, Leba Heigham, Secretary Ronald Spangler, and Jeff Thielman.
Superintendent, Nate Levenson, Assistant Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie, Chief Financial Officer, Sue Mazzarella,

Absent:

School Committee member Chair, Denise Burns, Vice Chair, Joe Curran and Sue Sheffler, Interim Sp. Ed. Director, Gerald Kupperschmidt
Student Representatives graduated June 8, 2008 Callie McHugh and Bobby McWatters

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PTO Thrift Shop Update

Amy Cohen, current Town wide PTO president acknowledged and thanked the organizers of the PTO Thrift shop, Sara Billingsley, Judy Hoer, Mary Ellen De Natale, Toni Langerman, and Irena Rasin and all the volunteers who have run the PTO Thrift Shop for over the last four years.

Liz DiNolfo, the new PTO town wide president, presented Amy Cohen with flowers for her dedication as town wide PTO's president.

Ron Colosi, Interim 1st VP of AEA reiterated to the committee that two scheduled arbitration dates were cancelled by the Arlington Public Schools and not by Mr. Coughlin and this continues to be a fiscal responsibility to the school system. Mr. Colosi reminded the committee that Mr. Coughlin's previous grievance is still ongoing and would like closure to these issues.

Mr. Thomas Davison, parent, spoke on the kindergarten open enrollment at the Brackett School for Bishop parents and Mr. Davison emphasized the need for equitable class sizes. Superintendent Levenson responded that any final decisions would ensure that kindergarten staffing and class size will be reasonable and equitable at all schools. Once all parents' preferences are received a decision will be made no later than next week.

CONSENT AGENDA – all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

*Approval of minutes from School Committee Meeting May 27, 2008

*Approval of Warrant # 08164 dated May 27, 2008 in the amount of \$ 265,823.40

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curro it was voted to approve the consent agenda.

*Approval of minutes from School Committee Meeting May 27, 2008

*Approval of Warrant # 08164 dated May 27, 2008 in the amount of \$ 265,823.40

Vote 4:0 unanimous

RECOGNITION

Mr. Spangler congratulated our School Committee Student Reps, Bobby McWatters and Callie McHugh on their recent graduation from Arlington High School and wishes them well next year as Bobby goes off to Harvard and Callie to

Tufts University.

Mr. Spangler read the email from Pat Tassone on the announcement on the following students who have been nominated for the All-Eastern Chorus and Orchestra, Luke Paulino, Chorus, Olivia Monson, Orchestra, Renee Delgado, Orchestra and Mary Rab, Orchestra.

Mr. Spangler provided a summary of the Athletic Departments spring update, which included both our tennis teams winning the GBL and finishing with undefeated records. The baseball team won the Holovack and Coughlin tournament and won one game in the state tournament, while our girls' lacrosse team went the farthest in the tournament only losing in double overtime in the semi finals. The softball team won more games than last year and our track program sent ten students to state's. Our boys' volleyball team won their first match in their young history at Arlington High School. Congratulations to you all.

AEA UPDATE / TRANSITION

Mr. Jack Duranceau briefed the committee on his past experience as AEA president and concluded his statement asking for positive support from administration for the teachers of Arlington.

MATH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING STUDY GROUP UPDATE

Superintendent Levenson provided a summary on the Math, Science, Technology and Engineering Study Groups past year results on monthly meetings with him throughout the year. Members of the committee included Arlington High School principal, math, chemistry engineering, and science, and computer teachers Charlie Skidmore, John Bookston, John, Jannetti, Ted Fiust, Jack Duranceau, High Morgenbesser, Vatan Kambiz, and Richard Rohan. Community members included Paul Parravano Co-Director of Government & Community Relations, Office of President, MIT, Abigail Gerthner, Researcher from MITRE Corp, Brian Calie Scientist from Microbia, Inc. and School Committee member Ron Spangler to develop a high caliber program that would attract students to study science and engineering. Then students and teachers could work closely with area high tech businesses and university that students could receive summer jobs, internships and create partnerships that would expose student to pursue careers in these areas. Our existing courses will remain and we will add three areas of interest such as robotics, biotechnology, and environment science.

Next year the committee will focus on various next steps and on how to implement the details of the program and the main focus would be to seek funding for implementation and development.

The committee does realize the vast workloads of teachers, appreciates their dedication, and would like to strengthen the opportunity for teachers to participate in professional development at MIT.

BREAK

SCHOOL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

Mr. Spangler presented on the School Facilities Working Group report that was presented to Town Meeting on May 15, 2008. The summary of the report is that The Massachusetts School Building Authority will not fund the complete rebuild of the Thompson and Stratton schools but might support repairs to the Thompson. The SFWG is continuing to explore the options to complete the project. The complete report can be found on our website.

BRAINSTORMING ON QUESTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANT ANSWERED ON NEXT MEETING

TOPICS: June 24

- § Budget Planning for FY 10
- § Title IX and Athletic Facilities Update

Mr. Curro requested from Mr. Spangler a timeline on the Budget Planning for FY 10. Any additional questions can be emailed to Ms. Burns, Chairwoman.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Levenson spoke on the hot weather and the concerns of the students in the classrooms and indicated that the memo he sent out was for parents to make the decision to assess the situation for their children.

On the open enrollment at Brackett, Superintendent Levenson assures to keep class size reasonable and to continue to review the plans and is confident parents will be satisfied with the outcome that should be known soon.

Superintendent Levenson also expressed his gratitude to Pat Tassone who is retiring after 35 years and will start the search to hire a new Fine Arts Director. Nate noted if we do not yield a candidate, we would find an interim solution.

Any parents or staff members who are interested to be part of the screening committee should contact Ms. Bodie.

Nate reported on a recent meeting in regards with The GIC insurance plan and noted a decision by October 1, 2008 by 70% of the union membership would be needed to approve this change, and more research will continue.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Thielman reported on the next Community Relations meeting on June 18th @ 4:30 to discuss the Crosby and Parmenter and presented the fee schedule on the Pierce Field.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curro it was voted to adopt the fee schedule proposed by the Community Relations Subcommittee effective on July 1, 2008.

Vote 4:0 unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was moved that the Policies and Procedures subcommittee review District policy on the release and publication of student information, and suggest changes/and or additions thereto.

Vote 4:0 unanimous

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Spangler mentioned that Ms. Barbara Flaherty sent a thank you note on the pen set she received for her 25 years of service as a Traffic Supervisors. Ron invited the committee to the fifth grade recognition night at Stratton.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thielman offered that the date for the summer meeting must be voted on at our next School Committee meeting.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curro is was voted to Adjourn at 10:20 pm.

Submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
School Committee